

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07349 280158Z

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8666

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 7349

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE, EG

SUBJ: SADAT'S MESSAGE TO FRANGIE

43*: CAIRO 4545

1. LEBANESE MINISTER OF DEFENSE NASRI MALOUF TOLD DCM RECENTLY THAT EGYPTIAN MISSION WITH SADAT MESSAGE MET WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND HIMSELF ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22. ACCORDING TO MALOUF, SADAT OFFERED BOTH EQUIPMENT AND TROOPS TO HELP LEBANON IN ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTY WITH ISRAELI ATTACKS. SADAT INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH EGYPT IS SECURE NOW, HE COULD NOT STAND BY WHEN A FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRY WAS IN TROUBLE WITHOUT OFFERING ASSISTANCE.

2. PRESIDENT FRANGIE THANKED MISSION AND SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER OFFER OF EQUIPMENT AND ASSISTANCE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION SADAT COULD MAKE WAS TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH HIS GOOD FRIENDS IN WASHINGTON TO RESTRAIN THE ISRAELIS. MALOUF INDICATED THAT FRANGIE WOULD NOT WANT EGYPTIAN TROOPS IN LEBANON AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT ASK FOR EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. HE ALSO NOTED MILITARY MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN MISSION RIDICULED FEDAYEEN DESIRE TO OBTAIN MORE
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MISSILES TO CONFRONT ISRAELI ATTACKS, ARGUING THAT THEY WOULD BE USELESS WITHOUT FULL RADAR MISSILE COMPLEX.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY GOL MOST GRATEFUL FOR SADAT'S
GESTURE AND MIGHT ACCEPT SOME EQUIPMENT ALTHOUGH THIS
BY NO MEANS CERTAIN. WE WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IT
PRESIDENT FRANGIE BROKE WITH TRADITIONAL LEBANESE POSITION
OF NOT ACCEPTING FOREIGN TROOPS ON LEBANESE SOIL.
HOUGHTON

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NNN

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